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Letter dated 13 March 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 13 March 1997, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Osman Ertug, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 58, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hüseyin E. ÇELEM
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter dated 13 March 1997 from Mr. Osman Ertug
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 6 March 1997 addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative at the United Nations which has been circulated as a United Nations document under the symbol A/51/820-S/1997/202 dated 7 March 1997.

The said letter is the latest in a series of similar communications addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative, to which I have responded earlier. Therefore, rather than going into its substance, which is rejected in toto, I will address myself to the real purpose behind this frenzy of letter writing by the Greek Cypriot side, as part of a calculated attempt to mislead the world about the latest developments in Cyprus.

The whole world is well aware of the danger posed to the peace and stability in Cyprus, as well as the region at large, by the recent purchase of the sophisticated S-300 missile system by the Greek Cypriot administration. It is also well known that, as part of its "joint defence doctrine" with Greece, the Greek Cypriot administration is currently building an air force and a navy base for Greece in Southern Cyprus, spending no less than $2.5 million per day in militarization efforts, and is reportedly planning to purchase new offensive armaments, such as attack helicopters and warplanes.

At the same time, the Greek Cypriot side is refusing to return to the negotiating table, on the lame excuse that "there is no common ground", ignoring the established parameters of a comprehensive settlement which have emerged as a result of years of negotiation.

The adventurist policy pursued by the Greek Cypriot side, together with its avoidance of the negotiating table, demonstrates who is undermining efforts for the achievement of a final settlement in Cyprus. On behalf of my Government, I condemn this unconstructive and hostile posture of the Greek Cypriot side and call upon it to embark on a more conciliatory course, particularly at a time when efforts are under way to resume direct negotiations.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 58, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Osman ERTUG
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus